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Appl. No. 09/844,296***Remarks***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-7, 9-14, 16-20, 22-25, and 27-36 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 16 being the independent claims. Claims 3, 12-14, 18, 20, 25 and 28 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Telephone Conference of March 23, 2005

Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview of March 23, 2005. During the interview, minor corrections to the claims in view of the Amendment dated November 9, 2004 were discussed. The Examiner provided a set of proposed changes to the claims to the Applicants' representative and suggested the proposed changes be entered by Examiner's Amendment.

Telephone Conference of March 25, 2005

Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview of March 25, 2005. During the interview, Applicants' representative requested that the minor changes to the claims be submitted by Amendment rather than entered by Examiner's Amendment. The Examiner consented to this request by the Applicants' representative.

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Appl. No. 09/844,296***Telephone Conference of March 28, 2005***

Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview of March 28, 2005. During the interview, the Examiner confirmed that claim 1 remains provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of copending Application No. 09/844,432.

Amended Claims

In response to the aforementioned telephone interviews, claims 3, 12-14, 18, 20, 25 and 28 are amended to correct minor errors as discussed. Specifically, claims 3, 18, 20 and 28 are amended to correct minor typographical errors while claims 12-14 and 25 are amended for clarity. Applicants contend claims 1-7, 9-14, 16-20, 22-25, and 27-36 are allowable over the cited prior art based on the arguments and amendments presented in the Amendment dated November 9, 2004.

Nonstatutory Double Patenting Rejection

Applicants, again, hereby agree to file an appropriate terminal disclaimer upon a finding of allowable subject matter.

Supplemental IDS of July 24, 2004

As indicated in the Office Action dated August 9, 2004, the Examiner has considered the references cited on page 2 (of 2) of the supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 24, 2002. Applicants note, however, that the Examiner did not indicate consideration of the references cited on page 1 of the same

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Information Disclosure Statement. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner verify consideration of the references cited on page 1 of the supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 24, 2002 to ensure the references submitted are made of record.

Second Supplemental IDS of February 28, 2005

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner acknowledge receipt and consideration of the IDS (Second Supplemental IDS) filed on February 28, 2005.

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Appl. No. 09/844,296**Conclusion**

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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